

COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT

December 10, 2002

5:30 PM

Chairman O'Neil called the meeting to order.

The Clerk called the roll.

Present: Aldermen O'Neil, Shea, Smith, Lopez

Absent: Alderman Wihby

Messrs: F. Rusczek, R. MacKenzie, R. Johnson

Chairman O'Neil addressed Item 3 of the agenda:

Resolution and budget authorization authorizing acceptance and expenditure of funds in the amount of \$19,250 from the NH Attorney General's Office for the 2003 CIP 215803 Air Quality Related Health Services.

On motion of Alderman Smith, duly seconded by Alderman Shea, it was voted to approve the resolution and budget authorization.

Alderman Shea asked, Mr. Rusczek, what areas of the City would be affected by this.

Mr. Rusczek answered all areas.

Chairman O'Neil addressed Item 4 of the agenda:

Resolution and budget authorization authorizing acceptance and expenditure of funds in the amount of \$5,000 from the NH Housing Finance Authority by decreasing 2003 CIP 810303 Community Development Initiatives Program (Cash) and adding 2003 CIP 810303 Community Development Initiatives Program (Other).

On motion of Alderman Lopez, duly seconded by Alderman Smith, it was voted to approve the resolution and budget authorization.

Chairman O'Neil addressed Item 5 of the agenda:

Communication from the Director of Planning submitting a request for various project extensions until June 30, 2003, as outlined.

Alderman Smith moved to approve the request. Alderman Lopez duly seconded the motion.

Alderman Shea asked, Bob, why are we doing this. Is this standard procedure?

Mr. MacKenzie replied yes. Normally we put a one-year time limit on projects but particularly with Federal funds if they are left over we extend them so that the money can be utilized.

Alderman Lopez asked are we going to be, as we go into next year's CIP budget, getting an update on why they are not using this money if that is the case come May or June.

Mr. MacKenzie answered yes. We would be happy to do that. We do check ourselves and occasionally close out projects that are done but we check with agencies to find out why it is not being spent and almost always there are good reasons why the money is not expended.

Alderman Lopez stated this is one Alderman who is going to look at that very, very closely because if they are not using it and they are just holding it for a rainy day, forget it.

Chairman O'Neil called for a vote on the motion. There being none opposed, the motion carried.

Chairman O'Neil addressed Item 6 of the agenda:

Report of the Committee on CIP regarding the sale of the City's ice skating rink, formerly utilized at Hampshire Plaza.

Chairman O'Neil stated I believe why it was referred back...there was some discussion the night of the presentation on the Riverfront development deal whether or not the developers would consider providing room for the ice rink down on the river and possibly consider maintaining it. I think Alderman DeVries asked that question after the meeting and the architect said it would fit and my understanding is that the developers were interested in it so maybe we can refer it to City staff in their discussions with the developers on the Riverfront. I happened

to take a walk over and look at the chiller that night. It is still sitting over at the Hampshire Plaza and it looks brand new.

Alderman Lopez stated I think it was also brought up that Jane Beaulieu was interested in it. It is not a bad idea to refer it to staff. Have they asked us to remove that chiller yet?

Mr. MacKenzie replied the new owners have not.

Alderman Lopez stated I would certainly let the staff get rid of it tomorrow. I don't care if they give it away as long as it doesn't cost us money.

Chairman O'Neil replied there appears to be a couple of opportunities that if we can be a little patient it may work out and we might be able to do something with the rink finally.

Alderman Shea asked how long would you want the City staff to look at this. Another month or so?

Chairman O'Neil answered yes and report back in another month. I know, Bob, that you are part of the negotiations. I guess Bill Jabjiniak and Randy are leading the City side. We should make sure that it at least gets to Bill Jabjiniak and Randy Sherman who are leading that but Bob is involved with the negotiations down there.

Alderman Shea moved to table the item.

Chairman O'Neil replied we can table it but I think we have to make sure it gets to staff. I don't know who is talking to Jane Beaulieu with regards to the West Side. That isn't in hand yet, right? Ron, do you know anything about that?

Mr. Johnson stated no I haven't heard anything from Jane Beaulieu at this point. We were asked to store the rink equipment and that is being stored in a trailer and the chiller is still at the Hampshire Plaza.

Alderman Lopez stated I think the Mayor brought that up at the meeting about Jane Beaulieu.

Chairman O'Neil asked do we have all of the money for Bass Island yet. Does anybody know? Part of the money may come from the 1993 mitigation so maybe we can follow-up and just see where they are. It would be sad to get rid of it and within a couple of months we may have an opportunity to do something with it. It

is in pretty good shape. The chiller is anyway. I don't know about the boards and all of that.

Mr. Johnson stated I think the boards are. When we looked at it the one issue that we had was it really wasn't large enough and the problem came with the cost of setting it up and taking it down. That is when the folks at Hampshire Plaza and Intown Manchester really couldn't make a go of it. If we were looking at it in a park area it would be best if it could be just kept up permanently and then you wouldn't have the cost. I think it was recommended that an open air roof be put over it so we would have the sides open so it could stay up and then it might have some use in the off season. It was costly to put it in and then take it down for the season.

Alderman Shea moved to refer this item to City staff (W. Jabjiniak, R. Sherman and R. MacKenzie) for discussions with the Riverfront Development group with a report back to the Committee at their January meeting. Alderman Lopez duly seconded the motion. Chairman O'Neil called for a vote. The motion carried with Alderman Smith being duly recorded in opposition.

Chairman O'Neil addressed Item 7 of the agenda:

Sewer abatement request of Ronald Blankenstein (101 Crestview Road).

On motion of Alderman Smith, duly seconded by Alderman Shea, it was voted to approve the sewer abatement in the amount of \$193.75.

Chairman O'Neil addressed Item 8 of the agenda:

Copy of a communication from Atty. J. Alexander MacMartin, Jr. representing 480 Lake Properties, LLC owners of property located at 480-482 Lake Avenue and 408 Milton Street to the Tax Collector advising of an outstanding waste water charge in the amount of \$1,572.27 indicating the City should absorb this cost or seek payment from the responsible party, Mr. David Senecal who was the owner at the time.

On motion of Alderman Lopez, duly seconded by Alderman Smith, it was voted to deny the request to have the City absorb the cost.

TABLED ITEMS

9. Discussion of graffiti-related issues confronting the City.
(Tabled 10/07/02)

10. Communication from Messrs. Garceau and Desmarais requesting the removal of a 12" concrete drainage pipe located at 747 Mammoth Road constructed by the Highway Department in 1969.
(Tabled 11/12/02 pending review by City Solicitor, Planning and Highway and requesting submittal of a plan for funding.)

NEW BUSINESS

Resolution and budget authorization authorizing acceptance and expenditure of funds in the amount of \$10,000 for the 2003 CIP 612603, Bethel Court Hazardous Materials Remediation.

On motion of Alderman Lopez, duly seconded by Alderman Shea, it was voted to approve the resolution and budget authorization.

There being no further business, on motion of Alderman Smith, duly seconded by Alderman Shea, it was voted to adjourn.

A True Record. Attest.

Clerk of Committee